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## Letter dated 9 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 6 January 2012 (see annex), addressed to you by Mr. Hilmi Akil, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 9 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 5 December 2011, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/66/585-S/2011/755), which yet again contains well-known allegations of violations of "international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus", and to bring to your kind attention the following:

In response to such false allegations, I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. It must be stated that claims of so-called violations of air traffic regulations are invalid, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

As noted in our previous letters, such assertions are based on the false and illicit claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This pretentious contention by the Greek Cypriot side ignores the present realities on the island of Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

Attempts by the Greek Cypriot side, through often-repeated false claims, to confer legitimacy upon an illegal administration will be futile since the Turkish Cypriot people will never give in to their unjust demands. What would indeed be conducive to a better atmosphere on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop arrogating for itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have, and to cease all hostilities towards the Turkish Cypriot people.

Furthermore, the Greek Cypriot administration should be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey, and that its persistent denial of Turkish Cypriot rights in the North of the island does not bode well for the prospects of a settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters, namely a partnership based on a bizonal, bicommunal federation with the political equality of the two constituent States.

It is unfortunate that the Greek Cypriot side maintains its hostile stance against Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots and uses every available outlet to repeat those fabricated accusations, which further escalate the tensions and undermine the spirit of trust and partnership between the two sides, especially at a time when the United Nations-led negotiations are reaching a decisive phase in finding a comprehensive settlement on the island. If the Greek Cypriot side is ready and truly committed to a fair settlement, then it should stop using negative rhetoric and dragging its feet at the negotiation table and start reciprocating the constructive proposals and positive attitude of the Turkish Cypriot side to enable the two parties to utilize the much valued involvement of the Secretary-General in moving to a high-level international meeting and successfully concluding the decades-old search for a new partnership on the island.

I would like to put on record once again that the Turkish Cypriot side is ready and doing its best to achieve a settlement in the form of a new partnership which will be in line with the established United Nations parameters and body of work.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hilmi **Akil**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus